

The Tradewinds Dining facility will reopen its doors Thursday. See page 5 for the story.



Staff Sgt. Arturo Quinones, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, secures the area with his M-16 during a bivouac exercise held here Dec. 1-2. The exercise was an opportunity for CE troops to practice their deployment skills. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Tabitha Larson.)

CE leads the way with phase two exercise

By Staff Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

More than 40 civil engineer troops honed their deployment skills during a phase-two exercise here last week.

Members of the 65th Civil Engineer Squadron assigned to Air Expeditionary Force nine had a chance to test their ability to set up a bivouac during the two-day exercise Dec. 1.

The exercise kicked off with a recall in which members identified in AEF 9 were bussed to a bare-base setting.

The purpose of the exercise was twofold, explained Capt. Robert Lance, 65th CES readiness flight commander.

First, it is part of their Air Force Instruction to conduct a field training exercise once a year. The second is to provide mobility training for the individuals in the squadron who are scheduled to be in the next deployment

rotation.

"We don't have the ability to send everyone to Silver Flag," said Captain Lance, 65th CES readiness flight commander. "So we decided to bring a little of Silver Flag to Lajes."

Silver Flag is a 10-day bare base operations training exercise.

At the bivouac, troops had to beddown themselves with an overall mission to create beddown for a special operations group.

Their initial beddown included five tents, one of which was the control center.

During the exercise, troops were subjected to attack and response scenarios to test their ability as if it were a real-world deployment. They also faced several security breaches over the two-day exercise.

"It was a very good first time exercise," Captain Lance said.

"The best part was actually seeing something that has been talked about for months come to light," said Master Sgt. Michael Smith, engineering flight superintendent.

In the future, more equipment and practice will help exercises of this nature run more smoothly.

"This time it was a crawl, but next time it will be a walk," said Captain Lance. "If we waited until we were 100-percent ready, we would never do it," he said.

Sergeant Smith used this experience to work through growing pains of leading other crafts as well as his own.

"It put me in a position that was unfamiliar to me," he said, as he oversaw the layout and construction of the small tent city.

The experience gave civil engineers an opportunity to put their skills to the test in a deployment setting.



COMMENTARY

COMUSAFE greets troops

By General William Hobbins
Commander,
U.S. Air Forces in Europe

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – What an exciting time to be a part of U.S. Air Forces in Europe! It is with tremendous excitement and humility that I accept this opportunity to be your commander, leading the bravest Airmen today's Air Force has to offer. I am deeply privileged to serve side-by-side with proven warriors who have answered the call to defend freedom around the world!

Standing beside me in this team effort for the second time is our Command Chief, Chief Master Sergeant Gary Coleman. Chief Coleman was particularly instrumental to the great success we experienced when he was my command chief at 12th Air Force in Arizona just two years ago.

I'm also looking forward to building on our already great relationship with the men and women who make up Allied Component Command-Air Headquarters Ramstein. It is truly a great honor for me and my family to serve again in the best command in the Air Force!

In my few days on the ground as your commander, I'm already impressed by the teamwork and dedication I've seen. It's only through your hard work, devotion and sacrifice that the command has been able to achieve the level of greatness it already boasts. U.S. Air Forces in Europe is renowned for its Combat and Special Interest Program, and this will serve as the foundation for our continued success. Through everyone's exceptional commitment and solidarity with our allies, we'll build on these strengths. The USAFE mission is important, demanding and far-reaching; continue to conduct it with the safety and efficiency you

always have.

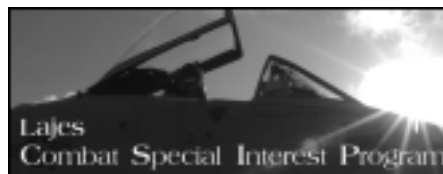
The operations tempo is high and that isn't going to change anytime soon. To you, I pledge my unwavering loyalty, clear communication and support. I ask that you dedicate yourselves to working with each other and me. Together we will build upon the tremendous legacy of those who served before us as we continue our fight along the front lines against terrorism around the globe. I recognize the contributions that you and your fellow Airmen make are vital to our continued success.

The holiday season is also quickly approaching – take the opportunity to spend quality time with your families and friends, reflect and revive those relationships that sustain you. You've worked hard and you deserve it.

As I get settled in, Chief Coleman and I will travel to the many bases throughout the command. I am looking forward to getting to know you. I'm particularly interested in what your challenges are so we can aggressively work to minimize them. Together we'll endeavor to strengthen even further our already stellar track record of teamwork with each of our NATO friends and allies. I'm looking forward to personally meeting many of you in the very near future. And I'm honored to have been chosen to lead you into that future.



General William Hobbins



Combat Intro / Exit is a program to streamline base inprocessing and outprocessing procedures. The goal is to make the entire process as close to "one-stop" as possible. The end result of Combat Intro / Exit should be a simplified process that takes members a mere two to three days to accomplish needed tasks when arriving or departing any USAFE base.

Combat Intro/Exit



Express In/Out Processing

Commander's Line

**Call 2-4240 or
e-mail actionline@lajes.af.mil.**

The Commander's Line is your direct link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution.

Your chain of command should always be your first option for praise or problems -- but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the CC Line.

**Col. Robert Winston
65th Air Base Wing
commander**



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USAFE flag changes hands

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Gen. William Hobbins assumed command of United States Air Forces in Europe from Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong Monday at a ceremony on Ramstein AB.

General Hobbins, who previously worked as Warfighting Deputy Chief of Staff for Warfighting Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, and acting Chief of Information Officer for the office of the Secretary of the Air Force, will begin his term as USAFE commander just five years after he last left the command as its director of Aerospace Operations.

"Robbin and I are absolutely thrilled to be back in Germany," the general said. "We look forward to rekindling the friendships we shared just a few short years ago."

During today's ceremony, General Hobbins shared his admiration for the command's previous commander, as well as spoke of his plans for the future.

"In my last function, I found inspiration in the understanding that decision superiority is not narrowly about technology, but broadly about the emerging military response to the information age," the general said. "Our history of air dominance using agile deployability and geographically dispersed forces makes complete battlefield awareness essential for success. My goal is to lead a command instilled with these world-class information capabilities."

After assuming command, General Hobbins spoke in English and German to thank his distinguished guests, including Gen. James Jones, U.S. European Command commander; Gen. Michael Moseley, chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force; General Foglesong and his family; as well local community, state and federal workers, in addition to the men and women of USAFE.



RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — General Michael Moseley, on the left, passes the United States Air Forces in Europe flag to General William Hobbins during the Change of Command ceremony as Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, in the center, looks on. (Photo by Master Sgt. John E. Lasky)

In his farewell speech, General Foglesong expressed his admiration for USAFE's Airmen and the tremendous job they've done during his term as commander.

"We have done great things and I have been privileged to work with such a fine group; not only of Airmen, but of Marines, Soldiers, and Sailors as well as our European Allies. We have continued the incredible legacy of accomplishments that NATO has achieved over the last five decades," General Foglesong said.

During General Foglesong's tenure, USAFE stood up the Air Force's Warfighting Headquarters and established Centers of Excellence for Expeditionary Operations, Air Dominance and Joint Fires. The general also led a robust theater security cooperation effort, visited more than 60 countries and established new relationships in USAFE's area of operations. Since taking the USAFE flag, he instituted 15 Combat and Special Interest Programs that have significantly improved mission

readiness and quality of life throughout the command.

As the new USAFE commander, General Hobbins also has three other titles: commander, Allied Air Component Command Ramstein; air component commander, U.S. European Command, Ramstein AB, Germany; and director, Multinational Joint Air Power Competence Center, Kalkar, Germany.

General Hobbins is a 1969 Officer Training School graduate and command pilot with more than 4,275 flying hours. He entered the Air Force in December 1969 as a graduate of Officer Training School. He has commanded two tactical fighter wings and a composite air group. He has served as the Director of Plans and Operations for U.S. Forces Japan, Director of Plans and Policy for U.S. Atlantic Command, and the Director of Operations for U.S. Air Forces in Europe. As the USAFE Director of Operations, General Hobbins was responsible for the planning, beddown and execution of combat forces in Europe for

Operation Allied Force. While serving as Commander, Air Forces Iceland, he led the composite wing in the intercept of 80 Soviet bomber aircraft in nine months. During his tenure as 12th Air Force Commander, General Hobbins deployed the 12th Air Force's Air Operations Center to Southwest Asia as operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom's alternate AOC prior to the beginning of the hostilities. He was confirmed for appointment to the grade of general and assignment as USAFE commander on Oct. 28, 2005. General Hobbins now leads USAFE, which includes more than 32,000 active-duty, reserve and civilian members.

USAFE's mission is to plan, conduct and coordinate offensive and defensive air operations based on tasks assigned by the U.S. EUCOM commander. The command's diverse responsibilities also include in-theater airlift and air refueling operations, and encompass 23 million square miles, from Greenland to Russia and Norway to Africa.



Good to know

Holiday mail deadlines

Saturday is the deadline for priority and first class letters to make it to the states by Dec. 25.

This deadline can be used as a ballpark for mail coming from the states as well.

The post office hours to mail items are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Customers may pick up packages on those days until 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For details, call 535-3625.

Flu shots

Flu shots are now available for dependents. Walk-in appointments are available at the clinic from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, except noon to 1 p.m.

Crossroads

Next week's Crossroads, the Dec. 16 issue, is the last edition for 2005. The next issue will be published Jan. 6. Anyone with a submission or an event during this time they would like to advertise, can e-mail news@lajes.af.mil.

Angel Tree Program

Monday is the last day for the Angel Tree program, a chapel charities initiative to bring presents to children on and off base who otherwise wouldn't get any. The angels are located on trees at both BXs. Donors are asked to choose a name and purchase a gift between \$15 -20 that doesn't require batteries and place it unwrapped with the angel in the box.



Seven-digit dialing

Lajes will be switching to 7-digit dialing soon. This means users will no longer be able to dial 2-XXXX when dialing a local DSN number. They will be required to dial 535-XXXX. Seven-digit dialing is currently available for use. Users are encouraged to get in the habit of dialing 535 when making local (on base) DSN calls.

Bare Base

Tech. Sgts. Scott Dees and Joseph Gilliland Jr., 65th Civil Engineer Squadron, push their structure as they set up a tent during a bivouac exercise Dec. 1-2. (Photo by Airman 1st Class Tabitha Larson)



700-plus Airmen face retraining

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — The ongoing Non-commissioned Officer Retraining Program will involuntarily retrain up to 777 active duty Airmen.

The second phase of the program started Nov. 18 and will continue until the Air Force meets retraining targets.

Enlisted retraining staff workers at the Air Force Personnel Center here will place involuntary retraining candidates into Air Force specialties to help balance the enlisted force.

"This phase of the retraining program is necessary to help meet the needs of the Air Force by moving Airmen from career fields with manning surpluses to those experiencing shortages," said Tech. Sgt. Catina Johnson-Roscoe, NCO in charge of Air Force enlisted retraining.

In Phase I of the program, Air Force officials notified more than 3,000 Airmen — selected as vulnerable to retrain — and asked them to submit their choices of shortage career fields they would most like to retrain into. Of those, the personnel center approved nearly 300 Airmen

to change career fields or separate.

"The Air Force makes every effort to place Airmen through the voluntary retraining phase, a program that allows Airmen to apply for their preferred career field choices," said Chief Master Sgt. Christine Williams, chief of the center's skills management branch. "Now, during the involuntary phase, we must place the overage Airmen in the remaining shortage AFSCs to best position enlisted manpower to meet Air Force mission requirements."

The retraining staff will work with selectees to make the transition as smooth as possible for them and their family — while still meeting Air Force needs, Sergeant Johnson-Roscoe said.

The center will update vulnerability listings — by grade and Air Force Specialty Code — on their Web site each week. The address is:

www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/retraining/retraining.htm.

For more information, call the MPF retraining section at 535-5143.



Dining facility reopens Thursday

**By Master Sgt.
Deborah Corder
65th Services Squadron**

After a long renovation project the Tradewinds Dining Facility is officially opening its doors Thursday.

A grand opening ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Jan. 4., but the dining facility will begin serving meals with the midnight meal Wednesday night.

At the same time, the flight kitchen will shut its doors for a scheduled renovation and all flight and ground meals will be available through the Tradewinds Dining Facility. Anyone needing flight or ground meals Wednesday can pick them up before 5 p.m. at the Mountain View Flight Kitchen and after 5 p.m. at the dining facility.

The opening of the dining facility will provide more meal options for Lajes personnel, including a larger salad bar than before, the traditional main and snack lines, and in the future, a pizza line.

Not all personnel are authorized customers though. All TDY and enlisted personnel can dine in the dining facility at any time. Commanders may use the dining facility for any meal to periodically determine the quality and quantity of food served to the enlisted force. Officers, Department of Defense civilians, U.S. military retirees, and their dependents can eat breakfast on weekdays and also partake during special scheduled events such as holiday meals.

Chris Sutter, a contractor with the renovation project bolts the benches to the wall and floor in final preparation for the reopening of the dining facility Thursday.



Dependents of active duty E-1 through E-6 may also use the dining facility for breakfast and brunch on weekends. Also, all personnel paying cash will pay the meal price plus the operating charge (surcharge) except for dependents of E-4 and below.

Another change will be that customers may dine in or take a meal to go, but not both.

The reopening means a change in pay for many personnel who received Basic Allowance for Subsistence during the renovations.

Once the dining facility opens, there will be a substantial difference in the paychecks of personnel living in the dormitories. All E-6 and below who live in the dorms will receive an essential station messing (a meal card) instead of BAS effective Jan. 1. All exceptions to this must be approved by the squadron commander. All E-7 and above will continue to receive BAS. However, the cost of living allowance will decrease for all personnel living in the dorms.

"If a member is on meal card, they will only be entitled to the 47 percent COLA," said 2nd Lt. Jason Schenck, 65th Comptroller Squadron. "If a member is authorized BAS, the Air Force Form 220 must specifically state the commander has determined use of the government messing facility to be impractical. If this statement is on the AF220, the member will be entitled to full COLA. This includes command post and E-7s and above personnel, even though they



The Tradewinds Dining Facility will reopen Thursday. It has been closed for renovations since February. The new facility will feature a larger salad bar and, in the future, pizza. (Photos by Master Sgt. Deborah Corder)

are automatically authorized BAS."

Several squadrons on the base as well as contractors made this renovation possible. Lt. Col. John Oliver, 65th Services Squadron commander, expressed his appreciation by saying "This renovation epitomizes the selfless service of numerous organizations to bring an even higher level of excellence to our wing." Squadrons that made this project possible included the 65th CPTS, 65th Civil Engineer Squadron and 65th Contracting Squadron. Also, the Air Base 4 dining facility contributed immensely by providing meals for base workers who receive a lunch meal per the Lajes Work Regulation.

The much awaited reopening of the dining facility is expected to greatly enhance the morale of Lajes personnel.

"The reopening will enhance morale across the wing by providing a first class facility for our troops," said Colonel Oliver.

Master Sgt. Ron Trembath, 65th Mission Support Group first sergeant agreed saying, "People will be eating healthier — instead of microwave meals there will now be balanced dining options for our personnel."

The enthusiasm and excitement of the reopening is also definitely felt by Services

squadron personnel. "I am looking forward to seeing the customers' reaction when they walk through the door," said Tech. Sgt. Andrew Mix, Tradewinds Dining Facility manager. "From the newly tiled entryway, to the expanded salad bar and serving line, to the comfortable ambiance in the dining area — the customer is guaranteed an extraordinary dining experience!"

The Services combat flight support commander echoed his comments.

"I am excited to have an actual dining facility — now we can support a greater range of personnel on the base," said 1st Lt. Sarah Schecht.

Whether its grabbing a quick breakfast before starting the work day, or enjoying lunch with friends — the Tradewinds staff welcomes Lajes personnel to their first class facility.

The hours are 6 to 9 a.m. for breakfast, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for lunch, 4 to 7 p.m. for dinner and 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. during weekdays. On weekends, holidays and down days, the dining facility will be open for brunch from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. and midnight meal from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

For more information, call 535-2255.



Santa's Elves

Post office assists Santa in delivering packages during holidays



Above: Senior Airman William Gentry, 65th Communications Squadron, wheels in a cart of packages Monday. Mondays and Thursday are when the post office processes the mail that arrives from Air Mobility Command on Wednesday and Saturday nights. The post office handles a third more mail in December than any other month.

Right: Airman Basic Casey Reins, 65th CS, fills out a Postal Service Form 3907, the yellow cards given to customers to let them know they have a package. (Photos by Airman 1st Class Tabitha Larson)



Santa's Elves share important information

- If packages aren't picked up after the second notice, the post office can return them "Unclaimed"
- Mail from the states comes in twice a week through AMC. The Post office processes mail Monday and Thursday. Intratheater mail arrives Monday through Saturday through the commercial airport
- Mail is sent out every day through the commercial airport
- Anyone on leave or TDY for more than 5 days must come in and fill out a DD Form 2258 to hold or forward mail
- Personnel can fill out a PS Form 3801 to authorize someone to pick up mail in the event of TDY, leave or hospitalization, not to exceed six months
- The post office has priority boxes people can take with them for free
- Small green customs forms are for continental United States addresses only. White customs forms are for everything including the CONUS
- To keep the contents of a package a secret, complete both the green and white customs form; place the white one inside the box and give the green one to the postal clerk
- Wine can not be mailed
- Make sure all family members are listed in the postal database to include any maiden names mail may be addressed to
- Each member automatically gets one year of forwarding service (First class letters and boxes get forwarded for one year and magazines are forwarded for 60 days)
- Mail may be sent for free to almost any APO/FPO -- write "MPS" where the postage would normally go
- Personnel can not send boxes MPS to themselves during a PCS move. They will be charged at a local rate
- Customers can go to USPS.com to pay and print postage, attach the postage to the box and bring to the post office with a customs form to save time
- Items to be pitched must be in numerical box order, have complete return and sending addresses and have MPS written where the postage normally goes; mail must be either postcard or normal envelope style. Flyers can not be placed in mail receptacles
- APO Boxes may not be used for home businesses, only personal use



COMMUNITY

Local crime affects Americans on and off base

By Col. Dan Leonard
65th ABW vice commander

Crime is a global issue and is a topic we are especially sensitive to here at Lajes Field. This two-part series addresses crime affecting Lajes Field personnel. Part one addresses my personal observations of the types of crimes we have experienced over the last year and how to keep from being victimized. Part two will focus on what Lajes is doing now and what we are considering for the future if these trends continue.

Nothing in this article is intended to cast blame on any group, whether American, Portuguese or other nationalities. There is a criminal element in every culture which is typically driven by drugs, poverty, opportunists, thrill seekers, misbehaving children or some combination thereof. Lajes is no different than any other base in that regard.

According to the U.S. State Department website and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, "Portugal has a relatively low rate of violent crime. However, petty crime is on the rise in continental Portugal as well as the Azorean archipelago." Theft in and around Lajes Field is a recurring problem that affects not only American personnel but Portuguese citizens as well. According to OSI, the threat of theft against Americans on Terceira is classified as medium if you live on base and high if you live off base.

My observations over the last year coincide with the State Department and OSI. I have not heard of any incidences of violent crime here at Lajes. Typically, the worst we see are occasional fights at the Top of the Rock Club or in the dorms. Almost all of these are alcohol-induced stupidity. As I tell people at Right Start, violent crimes are exceptionally rare on Terceira and we can all be thankful for that.

On-base housing occupants who live near the fence line have occasionally been the victim of youths from off base throwing rocks at their houses or cars, resulting in minor damage. In one unusual case, an American was hit by a rock thrown by a youth from off base and in a recent incident, one member of an off-base youth group allegedly fired a pellet gun in the direction of on-base youth and security forces.

From January through October, we

had 16 reported instances of damage against property. This crime, in all likelihood, is under reported. The two most common complaints were rock throwing and damage to private vehicles.

Vandalism is also a problem. Vehicles have been damaged by various types of vandalism, including "keyed" vehicles (deep scratches), broken windows, cuts to soft tops and destruction of wiring under the vehicle. We also had one vehicle stolen from inside base housing. In another extreme case, an American had the lug nuts on his tires loosened which caused a major accident, luckily without physical injury.

By far, the most frequent crime affecting Americans residing on or off Lajes Field is theft and petty larceny. Petty larceny is theft of items valued at less than \$500. According to Security Forces daily blotters over the past year, Americans have been the victim of theft to their vehicles, homes and offices on average every two days. Criminals have stolen bicycles, toys, lawn mowers, sprinklers, garden hoses and barbecue grills. Thieves have also stolen plants from landscaping right out of the ground, potted plants and more substantial items like construction materials.

Criminals come over our fence or cut through it to gain access to our housing areas and the main base.

Typically, these sorts of crimes occur between midnight and 5 a.m., in all kinds of weather.

The most common target of larceny is your car. Americans are frequently targeted because we leave items inside our vehicles in plain view, which has conditioned local thieves to break into our cars more often. Despite warnings, some Americans continue to leave high-value items like stacks of compact discs, wallets, electronics, clothing and cash inside their cars.

The second most common type of larceny is unsecured property. We leave that expensive MP3 player or laptop computer unattended for a few minutes and it grows legs and walks away.

House break-ins are more common off base, especially in communities heavily populated by Americans.

Over the past several years, during the period between Thanksgiving and

Christmas, there has been a sharp increase in the number of larcenies both on base and off. During this period last year, I recall an average of one member of Team Lajes suffering a larceny a day.

House break-ins typically occur when no one is home. Recently, however, we have had some off-base break-ins while the occupants were home.

How can you prevent a break-in from happening to you?

What follows is a refresher on good security practices. These are good ideas to follow regardless of whether you live in urban America or overseas. Many Airmen come into the military from rural America, where they are accustomed to a low crime threat. Where I grew up in rural Texas, we didn't lock our doors but we did have to dodge rattlesnakes in the yard. We have to adjust to our environment.

First, let's talk about your car. You wouldn't park your car in downtown Chicago with a tempting bag in the back seat. You certainly wouldn't tuck your wallet away in your glove box.

So why would you do it here? We have conditioned thieves to believe we leave valuables in our cars. Every time a thief breaks into a vehicle with American license plates

and finds hidden valuables, they look for another car to hit. We must break this cycle.

There should be nothing of value in your car beyond the original equipment. This is clear and simple, but almost always violated in the police reports I see. We have seen an occasional car break-in where the thief steals an in-dash radio or speaker system, but the vast majority of the crimes we see are snatch-and-grabs of personal property. Also, most insurance companies will not reimburse you for claims of theft for valuables left visible in your car. That should tell you something as well. Your car is not "secure" storage.

Second, how can you minimize your chance of having your home

By far, the most frequent crime affecting Americans ... is theft and petty larceny

-Colonel Leonard

See **CRIME** on Page 8

Making the Grade

Two selected for promotion

Congratulations to the following individuals who were selected for promotion to the next grade.

Lt. Col.
Anne Sproul,
65th Medical
Operations
Squadron commander was
selected for promotion to
colonel.



Capt. Angela
Thompson, 65th
Medical Support
Squadron was
selected for
promotion to
major.

Team Lajes congratulates
both of you on this tremendous achievement.

65th SFS Police Blotter

Nov. 29 - Dec. 6

Nov. 29

LOCATION: T-425

Complainant contacted SFS to report her personal radio and \$20 in one dollar bills were stolen. Police arrived on-scene to make contact with complainant who stated between 11:30 a.m. and 12:40 p.m. the above items were stolen. Complainant later telephoned SFS to report finding the radio in an unoccupied office. She requested a patrol respond to take pictures. The radio was located underneath a sink, behind some boxes. The room is utilized as a storage room.

Dec. 5

LOCATION: T-608

Complainant telephoned the SFS and reported damage to a facility access door of T-608/LRS Compound. Complainant stated he arrived at work and noticed the sliding door was broken. He then proceeded to his office

and noticed his door was open, and items were misplaced. He then checked his computer bag and the Government issued laptop was not there. The computer is an IBM ThinkPad. Other missing items included cash from the snack fund and booster club and various desks.

LOCATION: T-624/Power Plant

Complainant telephoned SFS and reported an old chain link fence/gate was stolen. He stated that at 9 a.m. he arrived at work and was informed that the chain link fence/gate was stolen.

LOCATION: T-130/Dormitory

Complainant telephoned SFS and reported the railing to the stairs on the south side of the building was missing. The complainant stated that he was informed that the railing was stolen between 12:01 a.m. 9 a.m. The complainant also stated that an ash tray was vandalized also.

CRIME continued from Page 7

burglarized? Outside our homes, we are often complacent about putting away children's toys, bicycles and other possessions. Keep in mind that one person's old, beat up bicycle may be another person's treasure.

A typical house thief is looking for an easy target. The hardest target is a well lit, locked house with a yapping dog inside and a security system. The easiest target is a dimly lit house on a quiet street with open windows or a spare key under the flower pot. A thief may find that key hidden on your front porch.

A thief will often "case" a house over a couple of nights to look for changes and patterns of behavior. If lights go on and off inside the house or there are other indications someone may be home, thieves will usually go elsewhere. A simple timer on your lights can make it appear you are home when you're not. A thief is not

looking for an encounter with an angry occupant.

Open or unlocked windows are a "no brainer," but surprisingly, several recent thefts have resulted from unsecured windows and doors.

Now, presume a thief gets into your house. Are your most precious valuables lying around for all to see? Are they tucked in a common storage place like a bedroom dresser drawer? Or did you tuck them into a nondescript box sitting among other storage boxes in a closet. Thieves don't spend a lot of time in your house. Don't make it easy for them. Once when I was away, I left my valuables in my freezer. Unless the thief was hungry, I was pretty safe.

If you live off base, ask your landlord for a home security system. Several landlords have started installing them for their residents. With the rash of crimes that we have had

lately, Americans are going to prefer a rental with an alarm system. Simple motion detector systems rigged to audible house alarms are relatively inexpensive.

What about everyone's nightmare?

You are home in bed and you hear a noise, suspecting an intruder in your home. According to law enforcement authorities, it is best to avoid any confrontation and contact the police immediately. In the past, patterns of criminal activity on Terceira have shown these thieves did not seek confrontation, but were merely attempting to steal money or property. It is not worth risking injury or worse in an attempt to apprehend a thief.

I highly recommend personal property insurance and comprehensive vehicle insurance if you have a late model car. You can get property insurance with a replacement cost rider or a

standard policy that pays you the depreciated value of your stolen property. Likewise, if you are the victim of a crime, you should check with our legal office about the possibility of filing a claim with the government, after settling any claim with your insurance carrier.

My last piece of advice is to be observant of your surroundings. I am very cautious about where I park my vehicle. Likewise, I pay attention to strangers in my neighborhood. If possible, get to know your neighbors and make a habit of observing their house while they observe yours. A neighborhood watch program is really nothing more than neighbors looking out for neighbors and reporting suspicious activity.

Next week, I will address what the wing leadership is doing to try to prevent crime and the possible implications if the current trends continue.



Holiday Spirit

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts gather with Team Lajes to share in the holiday spirit during the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony Dec. 1. Following the ceremony, community members warmed up at the Library for the Project Wizard Library Night Out, which featured music and hot drinks provided by the library. Bottom Left: During the Library Night Faith Tyndall, helps her little sister Abby get comfortable. (Photos by Airman 1st Class Tabitha Larson)



Azoreans celebrate Christmas similar to the way Americans do

Question

Do the Portuguese celebrate Christmas like Americans?

Answer

The Portuguese celebrate Christmas in much the same way as other western countries, including some European countries and the United States, although there are some minor differences due to local traditions.

These differences vary with the regions, especially when it comes to food and religious services.

Although some decades ago it was traditional to have a nativity scene, most Portuguese families now have Christmas trees set up in their living rooms. Some families, however, still set up a nativity scene as well as a Christmas tree.

On Christmas Eve, families and friends usually gather for supper and

exchange presents. The exchange of presents usually takes place after the meal is served, but it can take place at any other time.

The meal's menu varies with the regions of the country and the families' economic situation, but in the Azores it's common to have boiled codfish or stuffed turkey accompanied by red or white wines.

Many years ago the traditional dish was chicken because codfish and turkey were unavailable or too expensive.

After the supper, many people sharing the Catholic faith go to the Church to attend the Christmas Eve Mass, which is normally held around midnight. However, some families prefer to stay home and attend Mass on Christmas Day.

On Christmas and following days, people spend time visiting relatives, friends and live nativity scenes around

the island if there are any. It's traditional in this season, especially in the Azores, to visit friends, relatives and neighbors and try the different Christmas cakes and other delicacies.

This visiting period usually runs from Christmas until the Epiphany on Jan. 6, also known to the Portuguese as the "Day of the three Kings." It's also common for people to leave the Christmas trees and nativity scenes set up until this day.

Each year Praia and Angra city halls decorate their towns' streets with holiday lights and people enjoy strolling and viewing the displays.

This year the town of Porto Judeu will display a live nativity scene, which can be visited in the towns' multipurpose pavilion at the following days and times:

Dec. 16, 17, 23, 30 and Jan. 7, 2006 from 8-10 p.m.

Dec. 18, 25, Jan. 1, 8, from 3-5 p.m. and 8-10 p.m.



Top of the Rock beats bottom in annual hoops game

By 1st Lt. Mike Hyland
65th ABW Public Affairs

A heated debate has surfaced around Lajes Field recently. Airmen and civilians keep arguing about the dominant area of the base, the Top of the Rock or the Bottom of the Rock.

"The flight line is where the action is. It's all about the operations," said Brad Stebbins, Operations Support Squadron/Bottom of the Rock member.

"Everybody up here helps everyone on base. In the wing we provide customer service to all the squadrons," said Bill Rathbun, 65th Air Base Wing Safety Office/Top of the Rock member.

Wing leadership decided the only fair way to settle the debate would be with a basketball game. Lajes Field members from the Top of the Rock battled members from the bottom Friday at the high school gym for the third consecutive year. In the end it was the same old story, with the Top of the Rock team laying a 62-39 beating on their down-the-hill counterparts. The Top of the Rock is 3-0 in the annual game.

The Bottom of the Rock kept it somewhat close in the beginning, down by 12 after

the opening period, but the Top of the Rock couldn't miss after halftime.

"All our guys were on fire tonight," said Top of the Rock member Edward Lucas who had 19 for the victors.

The Top of the Rock defense played another key role in the win.

"I think a big part of the victory was that our D(efense) was solid the whole game," said Top of the Rock member Bobby Drayton.

Ironically, Drayton and Lucas are rivals during the Intramural season, with Drayton a player on the SMAAC squad and Lucas a 65th Civil Engineer Squadron member, but Drayton said they put aside their differences for the game.

"It was all about fun tonight," he said.

Both teams hit the offensive glass hard and scored the majority of their points in the paint. The difference came in the Top of the Rock's dominant outside shooting.

Ian Harris from the Bottom of the Rock led all scorers with 22.

The event was a joint Project CHEER/65th Services Squadron venture.



Top of the Rock's Bryan Turner shoots a lay-up late in the second half of Friday's game. The Top of the Rock beat the Bottom of the Rock for the third consecutive year in the Services/Project CHEER event. (Photo by 1st Lt. Mike Hyland)

ARMCHAIR QUARTERBACK CHALLENGE

Each week during football season, the Crossroads publishes a list of the National Football League games of the week for Team Lajes to predict. The person with the most correct picks will win free movie passes (admit two), \$3 off any Burger King purchase and a "rent-one-get-one free" at the Shoppette donated by AAFES.

The number one-ranked Armchair Q.B. each week will get his or her name and photo published in the Crossroads and we'll also print any smack talk the winner chooses to submit. Congratulations to Lamar Isaac who missed two, but captured the title for the second time this season during the tiebreaker where he picked the exact points for Monday night's game. Last week's winner, Tori Rathbun, joins here sister Kylie this week for the "You Don't Know Jack" title. Come on ladies, I know you have it in you. Step it up a bit.

Players can bring picks to the Public Affairs office in room 240 of Bldg. T-100 or e-mail them to lajesnews@lajes.af.mil. All entries must be submitted before the opening kickoff to the first game Sunday. In the case of a tie, a winner will be decided by who picks the closest combined score of the Monday Night game.

"That's makes two! I'm predicting I'll win again before the season is over. Just like I'm predicting the Noles will win the Orange Bowl."

--Lamar Isaac



- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chicago Bears vs. Pittsburgh Steelers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. Carolina Panthers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | St. Louis Rams vs. Minnesota Vikings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Oakland Raiders vs. NY Jets | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New England Patriots vs. Buffalo Bills | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Indianapolis Colts vs. Jacksonville Jaguars | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Houston Texans vs. Tennessee Titans | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cleveland Browns vs. Cincinnati Bengals | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Washington Redskins vs. Arizona Cardinals | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | San Francisco 49ers vs. Seattle Seahawks | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | NY Giants vs. Philadelphia Eagles | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Miami Dolphins vs. San Diego Chargers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kansas City Chiefs vs. Dallas Cowboys | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Baltimore Ravens vs. Denver Broncos | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Detroit Lions vs. Green Bay Packers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New Orleans Saints vs. Atlanta Falcons | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Total Points for Monday's Game: _____



PLANNER

Holiday operating hours for base facilities

Commissary

Dec. 24 - Closes at 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Closed
Dec. 31 - Closes at 6 p.m.
Jan. 1 - Closed
Regular hours of operation are
Monday - Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30
p.m. (Friday's the commissary closes at
7:30 p.m.)

Top of the Rock Club

Dec. 24 - Saturday Breakfast from 8
a.m. to noon; lounge open from 4 to 8
p.m. for *Bits & Bites Menu Available*
Dec. 25 - closed
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve celebration,
Dinner Buffet in Main Dining Room
from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Lounge Dance

from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Ballroom from
7:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Jan. 1 - Closed

Fitness Center

Dec. 25 - Noon to 5 p.m.
Dec. 26 - 8 a.m. to midnight
Jan. 1 - Noon to 5 p.m.

Ocean View Grill

Dec. 24 - Closes at 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Closed
Dec. 31 - Closes at 4 p.m.
Jan. 1 - Closed

Community Center

Dec. 24 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Closed
Dec. 26 - Community Center closed,
Sun & Sand Hut open 6 to 10 p.m.

Dec.
31 - 10
a.m. to 5
p.m.

Jan. 1
Noon to 5
p.m.

Jan. 2 -

Community Center closed, Sun & Sand
Hut open 6 to 10 p.m.

Bowling Alley

Dec. 24 - Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 25 - Open from 11 a.m. to 2
p.m.
Dec. 31 - Open from 4 to 8 p.m. for
Project CHEER
Jan. 1 - Closed



AFN Sports

myafn.net

Saturday

AFN-Sports

COLL BB: Duke @ Texas, 5:30 p.m.
COLL BB: Kentucky @ Indiana, 7:45 p.m.

AFN-Atlantic

COLL BB: California @ Kansas, 4 p.m.
COLL BB: Ohio State @ St. Joseph's, 6 p.m.
COLL FB: NCAA Division II Football Champion-
ship: Northwest Missouri State vs. Grand Valley
State, 8 p.m.

AFN-Pacific

COLL FB: 2005 NCAA Div. 1-AA Football
Championship - Semifinal #2: Furman vs. Appala-
chian State, 4 p.m.

COLL BB: Michigan @ South Florida, 7 p.m.

COLL BB: Alabama @ Temple, 9 p.m.

COLL BB: Wichita State @ Michigan State, 11
p.m.

Sunday

AFN-Sports

COLL BB: Duke @ Texas, 7 a.m.
COLL BB: Oklahoma State @ Gonzaga, 9:15 a.m.
COLL FB: 2005 Heisman Trophy Presentation, 1
p.m.

NFL: Indianapolis Colts @ Jacksonville Jaguars,
5 p.m.

NFL: Kansas City Chiefs @ Dallas Cowboys, 8 p.m.

AFN-Atlantic

Rodeo: 2005 PRCA National Finals Rodeo, 11 a.m.
NFL: Tampa Bay Buccaneers @ Carolina Pan-
thers, 5 p.m.

NFL: Washington Redskins @ Arizona Cardinals,
8 p.m.

AFN-Pacific

NFL: Chicago Bears @ Pittsburgh Steelers, 5 p.m.
NFL: Miami Dolphins @ San Diego Chargers, 8
p.m.

At the Movies



Today: 7 p.m. Cry Wolf

Starring Julian Morris,
Lindy Booth

The Liar's Club has spread
an online rumor that a serial
killer called "The Wolf"
committed a recent murder
and is planning to strike
again. The group's descrip-
tions of "The Wolf's" intended
victims are based on the
people they know best - each
other. When the described
"victims" suddenly start to
disappear, the group is no
longer able to determine
where the lies end and the
truth begins.

Rated PG-13, 90 min.

**10 p.m. A History of
Violence** - Starring Viggo
Mortensen, Maria Bello

Tom is a loving family man
and well-respected citizen of a
small Indiana town. But when
two savage criminals show up
at his diner, Tom is forced to
take action and thwart the
robbery attempt. Suddenly
heralded as a hero who took
the courage to stand up to
crime, people look up to Tom
as a man of high moral

regard. But all
that media attention has the
likes of mobsters showing up at
his doorstep, charging that Tom
is someone else they've been
looking for. Is it a case of
mistaken identity or does Tom
have a history that no one
knows about? Either way,
someone's about to find out if
there's a history of violence

Rated R, 98 min.

Saturday: 7 p.m.

Domino - Starring Keira
Knightley, Mickey Rourke
Domino Harvey rejects her
privileged Beverly Hills lifestyle
as the daughter of a famous
actor and a Ford agency model
to become a bounty hunter in
pursuit of society's nastiest
criminals.

Rated R, 120 min.

Sunday: 2 p.m. - Cry Wolf

Sunday: 7 p.m. - Domino

Wednesday: 7 p.m. - History
of Violence

Thursday: - 7 p.m. Domino

Next week: In Her Shoes
and Elizabethtown

Movies subject to change.

For updated information, call
535-3302.



EVENTS

Submission deadline is Thursday one week prior to publication. E-mail announcements in normal text with event, location, date, time, point of contact's full name and phone number/e-mail address to news@lajes.af.mil. For on-base numbers, dial 295-57 and the last four digits.

Project Wizard

Story hour: The base library offers story time every Friday at 3 p.m., for children 7 and younger. Seasons, specials weeks, heritage months and holidays are covered in story hour themes.

Combat Fitness

Fitness center hours: 5 a.m. to midnight Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekends and holidays. For more information, call 2-5151.

Aerobic, Taekwondo Classes: Both classes are now held at the Youth Center Gymnasium, building T-240. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Mary Davis at 535-5151.

Combat Education

Oklahoma University classes: The Masters of Human Relations degree program with University of Oklahoma is a 36 credit hour, non-thesis degree that can be completed within 16-24 months.

For more information, call Jaclyn Kemp at 535-3171.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University:

Embry-Riddle is currently holding registration for undergraduate and graduate distance learning courses that start in January.

For details, contact Terra Schellig at 535-3375.

AFAS Grant: Lajes High School seniors are eligible for the free Air Force Aid Society \$1,500 per year if they are the dependent of an Air Force sponsor. For more information, log onto http://www.afas.org/education/body_grant.cfm.

Jobs/Volunteer

ERAU: Embry-Riddle is seeking part-time faculty in a variety of disciplines.

For more information, call Terra Schellig at 535-3375.

Volunteers to teach first aid: The American Red Cross

is in need of volunteers to teach first aid to children in grades K-5 next year at Lajes Elementary School. For more information, call the American Red Cross Office at 295-57-3516.

Services vacancies: The 65th Services Squadron vacancy listing is available at the 65th SVS Human Resources Office in Bldg. T-112 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For details, call the HRO staff at 295-575-200 or 535-5200.

Music teacher: DoDDS Middle/High School is looking for a music teacher with experience in the music field in band and chorus. For more information, call Lori McCoy at 535-4151.

Base Tax Advisor: Position is available through the contracting office. The period of performance goes from Jan. 17 to June 2. For more information, contact Tech. Sgt. David Roux at 535-6855.

OU Temp site manager: The University of Oklahoma is seeking applicants for a temporary site manager. This position will be for Feb. 13 to May 31, 2006. Training will begin on Feb. 1. Requirements include a bachelor's degree and related experience. Deadline to resubmit applications is Dec. 23, 2005. Interviews will be conducted in the first week of January. To apply submit a cover letter and resume to the OU office, or e-mail them to aplajes@ou.edu.

Combat Touch

Can Food Drive at Mass: Sunday, 10:30 a.m. at the base chapel; **Christmas Cantata Potluck:** 6 p.m. Sunday at the base chapel; **Protestant Women of the Chapel Fellowship:** 7 p.m. Monday at the base chapel; **New Creation Cafe:** 7 p.m. Dec. 16 at Eddie's Place; **Little Flowers Girls' Club:** Dec. 19, 2 p.m. at the base chapel; **Candlelight Service:** Dec. 24, 7 p.m. at the base chapel; **Christmas Eve Mass:** Dec. 24, noon at the base chapel; **Christmas Day Mass:** Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m. at the base chapel; **Combined**

Protestant Service: Dec. 25, midnight at the base chapel; **Watch Night Service:** Dec. 31, 10:30 a.m. at the base chapel; For details, call the chapel at 535-4211.

Combat Care

FSC Open Holidays: The Family Support Center is now open on American Holidays with limited services from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 535-4138.

Miscellaneous

Lajes Field Photo Club: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the family support center. Participation is open to everyone. For details, call 295-549-262.

Classifieds

Submit ads via e-mail to news@lajes.af.mil. Ads are due by 5 p.m. Friday. Please remember to notify the Crossroads when items have been sold.

1988 Nissan Bluebird 1.6 for sale, inspection good until Jun 06, in excellent conditions. New suspension, tires and water pump. 4 doors, power locks, windows and trunk. \$1,800 obo. Call 963672715.

1995 Subaru Legacy Automatic, 4dr, AM/FM Cassette \$2,000 OBO Available NOW. 295-549-605 or kevinkite@softhome.net

WANTED: Second hand Elliptical trainer. Call Claudia Santos at 535-6417.

NANNY-HOUSE KEEPING-BABYSITTING
Diana is an excellent nanny and is now available. She can read, write, and speak English fluently. She is warm, honest, reliable, flexible, and most importantly, bonded with my son immediately. She has experience working for families on and off base with references. For details, contact me at jenkephardtavis@yahoo.com or call Diana directly at 963516249.

For Sale: Woman's mess dress, size 10 regular; both skirt and jacket for \$100; contact Sandra at 295-549-719

Moving sale: Brand new lg. Addis gym/travel bag, brand new suitcase, down sleeping bag/mat, cordless phones, microwave oven, blowdryer, and new Epson 777i series ink cartridges. 295-515-742

Harlem Globetrotters
UNSTOPPABLE!

Monday, December 12, 2005
Doors Open to the Public: 1730
Show: 1830-2030 Hrs.
Prala High School Gym (below the fire department)

Exchange new car sales

Bus transportation will be available. SEE YOUR FIRST SERGEANT FOR TICKETS

SPONSORS: Lajes Services, Western Union, New Bedford, MWR